



COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

3721

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: William N. WEAVER
Robert E. UNGAR
Lonnie R. SEYMOUR

Serial No.: 09/714,340

Filed: 16 November 2000

Title: SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR
PACKAGING CONTAINERS

Group: 3721

Examiner: L.B. Tran

Elect/Amend
4/A

7/15/02

Bross

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

RECEIVED

JUL 05 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement mailed on 24 May 2002,
Applicants elect Claims 1-13, with traverse. In addition, please enter the following
amendment:

AI
14. (Amended) A carrier for unitizing a plurality of containers, the
carrier having an unstressed condition prior to application to the plurality of
containers and a stressed condition subsequent to application to the plurality of

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

20 JUNE 2002

20 JUNE 2002

Date

ICID. CLK

Signature

Serial No.: 09/714,340

Cont
AI adjacent containers with an applying machine, each container of the plurality of adjacent containers having a maximum diameter, the carrier comprising:

a sheet of flexible plastic having a plurality of elongated apertures aligned in longitudinal rows and transverse ranks, which elongated apertures are oriented in a longitudinal direction of the carrier and in the unstressed condition have a longitudinal pitch between each adjacent elongated aperture, the longitudinal pitch having a first length greater than a distance between adjacent containers of the plurality of adjacent containers;

a plurality of relief holes positioned in the sheet, the relief holes positioned between adjacent longitudinal rows of elongated apertures; and

a container pitch between each adjacent elongated aperture when the carrier is in the stressed condition after application to the containers, the container pitch having a second length approximately equal to the maximum diameter and shorter than the first length.

No additional fee is necessary as the total number of claims remains the same.

REMARKS

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed in view of the foregoing amendment. The restriction requirement was premised on the assertion that the device (Claims 14-18) may be applied by hand and thus may be used in a